Please replace the Abstract of the present application with the following amended Abstract.

Abstract

~~The invention relates to an optical reading system comprising an optical reader and a host processor. In one aspect of the invention, the host processor may be configured to transmit a component control instruction in response to a user input command input by a user of the host processor to remotely control the reader. The optical reader subsequently receives the transmitted component control instruction and executes the component control instruction substantially on receipt thereof. In one embodiment, execution of the component control instruction by the optical reader has the same effect as the reader trigger being manually pulled by a reader operator.~~ A programmable optical reader can include a program loading component and a program execution component operative to execute an externally generated program, whereby executing the externally generated program includes replacing a portion of the optical reader program. A programmable optical reader can include a two-dimensional image sensor, an image frame memory storing two-dimensional electronic images, and can be configured to be reprogrammed by any one of receipt of reprogramming data from a local host processor or receipt of programming data from an external remote off-site processor.